

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 22, 2005, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1 and 33 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 1-16 and 21-46 have been allowed. Accordingly, claims 17-20 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,725,039 of Parmar et al. ("Parmar"). Applicants note that U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0082014 is referenced, which is an application of Andersson et al. but Applicants believe that Parmar is the intended reference, based on the "Notice of References Cited." Applicants further note that the Office Action acknowledges, on page 3, that Parmar does not teach all the elements of claims 19 and 20. Accordingly, this rejection is being treated as a rejection only of claims 17-18. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 17, upon which claim 18 depends, is directed to a network element for handling radio resource control in a radio access network. The network element includes means for receiving a relocation-specific information. The network element also includes means for establishing, in response to the receipt of said relocation-specific information,

a link to a drift network element specified by said relocation-specific information. The network element further comprises means for initiating a downlink bi-casting procedure to said network element and to a serving network element to be subjected to relocation, or a downlink transport forwarding procedure from said serving network element to said network element.

As discussed in the specification, certain embodiments of the present invention can provide a relocation procedure that can improve radio performance. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art of Parmar fails to disclose or suggest all the elements of any of the presently pending claims. Therefore the prior art fails to provide the critical and unobvious advantages discussed above.

Parmar generally describes a procedure for providing handover between a GSM network and a UMTS network, where a handover request with GSM parameters is passed from a BSC through an MSC of the GSM network to a UMTS core network (CN) and to an RNC of the UMTS network. In the RNC, the GSM parameters are translated to UTRAN parameters and UTRAN resources are allocated in response to the translated parameters. Thereby, the GSM parameters can be passed transparently through at least a portion of the UMTS network to the RNC, so that processing load is reduced and the RNC is enabled to allocate optimum UTRAN resources for the call.

Claim 17 recites, in part, means for establishing, in response to the receipt of said relocation-specific information, a link to a drift network element specified by said relocation-specific information, and means for initiating a downlink bi-casting procedure

to said network element and to a serving network element to be subjected to relocation, or a downlink transport forwarding procedure from said serving network element to said network element. Parmar does not teach or suggest at least these features.

In the present application, the term “drift network element” can relate to macrodiversity and soft handover involving drift network elements (DRNC) or subsystems (DRNS). The term “drift network element” has a clear meaning in the context of the present application and does not read on the core network (CN) described in the Parmar patent. Because Parmar deals with parameter translations during handover between different network types, the connection between the MSC and the CN in Parmar cannot be a link to a drift network element in the sense of claim 17 of the present application. An example of a drift network element in the present application is drift IP-BTS 21. An example of a process involving the drift IP-BTS 21 is provided on p. 9, ll.12-30 of the specification.

Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 17-18 in view of Parmar be reconsidered, and that the rejection be withdrawn, because Parmar does not teach or suggest at least the elements discussed above.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parmar in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,807,419 of Laiho. The Office Action states that Parmar teaches all of the elements of the claims, except “adding an identification

information which identify a drift network.” The Office Action supplies Laiho to remedy the deficiencies of Parmar. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 19, upon which claim 20 depends, is directed to a network element for handling radio resource control in a radio access network. The network element includes means for adding an identification information to a relocation-specific information, said identification information identifying a drift network element supporting said network element in serving a user equipment. The network element also includes means for transmitting said relocation-specific information to a target network element to which radio resource control of said user equipment is to be relocated.

As discussed in the specification, certain embodiments of the present invention can provide a relocation procedure that can improve radio performance. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art of Parmar and Laiho, when viewed singly or combined, fail to disclose or suggest all the elements of any of the presently pending claims. Therefore the prior art fails to provide the critical and unobvious advantages discussed above.

Laiho generally describes a SRNS relocation procedure in a UMTS network. An association between Radio Bearer (RB) and one or more Radio Access Bearers (RABs) shall be maintained after relocation. According to col. 1, last paragraph, of Laiho, one UE may simultaneously use several RABs: for example, one established for a voice call, and another established for a data call. To ensure that the target RNC can associate RBs with the correct associated RABs, a Relocation Required message contains an RRC

Initialization Information container that contains information enabling a mapping between RABs and RBs for the UE (see paragraph bridging Col. 2 and 3 of Laiho).

The Office Action interprets the identification information in the container (as shown in Fig. 6 of Laiho) as identifying a drift network. That information, however, in view of the explanation of a drift network element above, is not information identifying a drift network element. Thus, Laiho does not remedy at least that deficiency of Parmar.

In addition to the deficiency of Parmar that the Office Action identifies, Parmar fails to teach or suggest the element of “means for adding an identification information to a relocation-specific information, said identification information identifying a drift network element supporting said network element in serving a user equipment,” at least because it does not teach or suggest “said identification information identifying a drift network element supporting said network element in serving a user equipment,” as the Office Action acknowledges.

Additionally, it would not have been obvious to combine Parmar and Laiho. Parmar relates to handover processing between a GSM network and a UMTS network, while Laiho relates to SRNS relocation in a UMTS network. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine Parmar and Laiho.

Conclusion

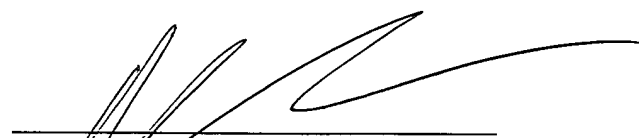
For the reasons explained above it is respectfully submitted that each of claims 17-20 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art of record.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that all of claims 1-46 be allowed, and that this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas H. Goldhush
Registration No.: 33,125

Customer No. 32294
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
14TH Floor
8000 Towers Crescent Drive
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700
Telephone: 703-720-7800
Fax: 703-720-7802

DHG:kmp

Enclosures: Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time
Check No. 13509